The Bible & Daily Living

The value of temptation

By WILLIAM L. TRIMYER
TEMPTATION AS ONE OF LIFE'S PROVING GROUNDS
Lesson for December 26, 1982
Bible Study Passage: Luke 4:1-15
INTRODUCTION

It seems a bit strange studying the temptations of Jesus having just celebrated his birth. This lesson, however, naturally moves from the beginning of his life to the beginning of his ministry. The temptation experience seems to mark a critical period in the life of Jesus as he sets out to claim who he was and what he would do.

Jesus wrestled with temptation as a very powerful force. He experienced temptation just as you and I experience temptation, that is, he had to struggle with resisting those attractive offers to sell out for his baser appetites.

Temptation is a strange emotion that has different meanings for different people. Temptation for you is perhaps wanting to indulge in ice cream and cake when your instinct tells you to watch your waistline. Temptation may also take the form of selling our values or beliefs for a "bigger slice of pie!" For instance, we may be tempted to embrace an unethical business practice because the payoff looks attractive to us. Temptations usually come to us dressed as innocent invitations to something better. They tend to appeal to our baser appetites. This week's lesson will look at how Jesus struggled with his own temptation.

Facing The Temptation (Luke 4:1-2a)

Jesus always found that his ideas clashed with the ideas of his contemporaries. His society tried to force him into a mold he was uncomfortable with. He struggled against these forces from day one in the wilderness through his agony at Golgatha.

The passage says that Jesus was "tempted by the devil." It would be inaccurate to draw a mental image of Jesus wrestling with a two-horned man in red-hot pants! The struggle we witness here is one between two kingdoms-the Kingdom of God and the kindom of evil. In his wilderness struggle, Jesus is tempted to choose power and wealth over a life of humility and ministry. This struggle took place in the mind and soul of Jesus, and although his assailant was invisible, his struggle was real and painful.

The Temptation of the Stomach (Luke 2'-4)

Jesus got hungry just as we get hungry from time to time. Whe he could have turned stones to bread, Jesus chose to go hungry awhile longer in order to identify with hungry people everywhere. Jesus was very much in touch with the deep hungering in people's soul for spiritual nourishment.

Jesus did not choose the popular road of changing stones to loaves. Instead, he sought to provide for the spiritual hunger of people.

The Temptation to Political Office (Luke 4:5-8)

Many expected the Messiah to be a political redeemer. The struggle for Jesus was to decide between world ruler or a ministry of service. Satan dangled before Jesus the opportunity to become a world ruler for a price. The going price for such a position was that he give up his heavenly Father's mission. Jesus responds, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve."

The Temptation to a Life Without Hazard (Luke 4:9-13)

This third temptation was very subtle. Up to this point Jesus refused to use his powers as magic or to win the people's following by appealing to their political passions. The tempter seeks to break the stubborn will of Jesus by asking him to jump off of a building. The tempter wanted Jesus to assume that he could expect a life without hazard.

We sometimes think that if we simply trust God we won't have to suffer, that tragedy will not strike us. Sometimes we try to convice ourselves that if we are good enough we will always have a protecting angel beside us, lest we get cancer or develop heart trouble.

Jesus decided not to face life with this kind of shallow thinking. He decided to face whatever awaited him, even if at the end of the road there might be the shadow of a cross.

Dr. Trimyer is Chaplain at Burnham Hospital in Champaign, Illinois (WLYP).

Program set

The "Expressions of Love" of Liberty Baptist Church will present a program of Christmas music at New Hope Baptist Church on Wednesday evening, Dec. 22 at 7:15. The Rev. Bob Williams is pastor.

The public is cordially invited to attend.

THE RESIDENTS OF BABCOCK MANOR received a special treat Monday morning, when a delegation from the Appomattox Children's Center paid a visit to sing Christmas songs. The children, who had been rehearsing the tunes for the upcoming Christmas holiday, entertained the residents with vim and vigor. In the above photo, manor resident George Wiley Woolridge poses with a poinsettia among the children.

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Merry Christmas

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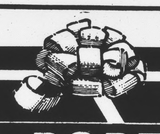

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Jayne Kimberly Harrison weds Harold James Royal

The marriage of Miss Jayne Kimberly Harrison of Raleigh, N.C. to Mr. Harold James Royal also of Raleigh, N.C. took place on Sat., Nov. 20 at 6 p.m. in the First Presbyterian Church of Raleigh. Dr. Albert G. Edwards officiated at the double ring ceremony in a candlelight service.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Harrison of Wilmington, N.C., formerly of Appomattox. She is the granddaughter of Mrs. Nell Young of Concord and a grandniece of Mrs. Emily Burke of Appomattox.

The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James E. Royal of Mebane, N.C. and the grandson of Mrs. Zenia Wood of Bluefield, W. Va.

The bride, given in marriage by her father wore a gown of heavy ivory satin featuring a Princess Ann neckline with an inlay of Alencon lace accented with seed pearls. The full Boston sleeves, accented with matching lace applique, were gathered at the cuff with lace.

The full skirt fell from a fitted bodice and swept into a chapel length train, also accented with lace. The bride wore a matching hat of Alencon lace and chiffon highlighted with a raised brim of lace roses and seed pearls. A chiffon veil cascaded into a full train. She wore a necklace of pearls and carried a lace handkerchief, given by her grandmother, Mrs. Lena Harrison. She carried a cascade bouquet of Galla lilies and stephanotis.

Mrs. Lisie Hogan Kirby of Wilmington, N.C., was matron of honor.

She wore a long skirt of sapphire blue taffeta and off-white blouse. She carried an arm bouquet of off-white silk flowers and calla lilies.

Bridesmds were Ms. Gail Grissett, Ms. Cyndi Ch. ver, Ms. Victoria Mutarelli, Ms. Judy Pickett and Ms. Tina Bowles, all of Raleigh, N.C.

Their gowns were identical to that of the honor attendant and they carried similar bouquets.

Miss Meredith Wiggs was flower girl. She wore a long off-white dress with an overlay of eyelet lace and a sapphire blue sash and necktie. She carried a basket of silk flowers.

Mr. James Royal was his son's best man. Ushers were William Royal, brother of the groom, Mebane, N.C.; Steve Royal, brother of the groom, Burlington, N.C.; Greg Royal, brother of the groom, Mebane, N.C.; Jeff Harrison, brother of the bride, Wilmington, N.C., and Richard L. Harrison, Jr., brother of the bride, of Wilmington, N.C.

A program of nuptical music was provided by Miss Sally Burns, soloist and Mr. Norman Acker, organist.

Mrs. Emily Wood Daugherty, cousin of the bride, of Bellhaven, Virginia attended the guest register.

The bride is a graduate of Appomattox County High School and is employed as a dental assistant in Raleigh.

The groom is a graduate of Eastern Alamance County High School and graduate of North Carolina State University with a B. S. degree in Mechanical Engineering and is employed as a product engineer at Kerramatal Inc of Raleigh.

Following a honeymoon in Florida the couple will reside in Raleigh.

Mrs. Harold James Royal

Cheryl Lynn McCormick

McCormick wedding set

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard A. McCormick, Sr. of Appomattox, announce the engagement of their daughter, Cheryl Lynn, to Ricky Vassar Langford, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Langford of Charlotte Court House.

The wedding will be an event of June 4 at the home of the bride in Appomattox.

Teresa Phelps weds

The marriage of Teresa Gaye Phelps to Stephen Daniel Rudolph took place Saturday afternoon at 2:30 in Mount Comfort United Methodist Church in Appomattox with the Rev. David Camden, pastor of the church, officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mr. Howard C. Phelps of Appomattox. The bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel K. Rudolph of Forest.

The bride was given in marriage by her father.

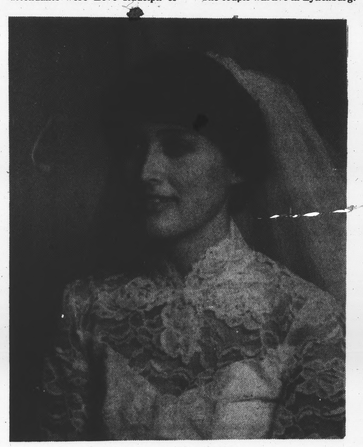
Sue Phelps of Appomattox was her sister's maid of honor and attendants were Eeve Rudolph of Forest, sister of the bridegroom; and Mrs. John Lee of Appomattox, cousin of the bride.

Mark E. Rudolph of Evington was best man for his brother and ushers were Michael K. Phelps of Appomattox , brother of the bride; and Gary Woodward of Evington, brother-in-law of the bridegroom.

The bride is a radiology student at Central Virginia Community College.

The bridegroom is a business administration student at CVCC and is employed as a bindery worker at Progress Printing Co.

The couple will live in Lynchburg.



Mrs. Steven Daniel Rudolph

Hospital installs computer, critical patients to benefit

These days, it seems like computers do everything, removing the human touch from our lives. But Lynchburg General-Marshall Lodge Hospital has purchased some new computerized equipment that actually allows the nurses to spend more time with their patients.

The hospital has installed new computerized monitoring equipment for critically ill patients. Manufactured by Marquette Electronics, Inc., the equipment automatically monitors each patient's electrocardiogram (EKG) and blood pressure. More sophisticated measurements including cardiac output, blood gasses, medication dosage and arrhythmia analysis are also recorded. The equipment does more than simply monitor information. For example, the EKG of a critically ill heart patient is constantly monitored and stored for future reference. Each unit can be individually tailored to each patient's needs and programmed to monitor only those signs important to that patient.

(Continued on page 6)

To make it official, we're putting our greeting into print: A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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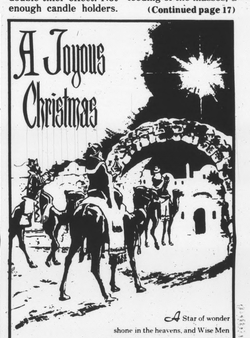

A Star of wonder shone in the heavens, and Wise Men from the East came to worship a newborn King. May this spirit of reverence and rejoicing spread its wonder throughout your daily lives.

Merry Christmas to all our friends and cherished patrons.

Tolley's, Inc.

State Social Services board seeks fuel-assistance funds

The State Board of Social Services has agreed to contact Virginia's Congressional delegation in support of Senator John Warner's efforts to find additional funds for fuel assistance in the wake of the close of Virginia's regular fuel assistance program December 10.

The Board also went on record with an appeal to the private sector for volunteer help in what may be a crisis situation for some households which find themselves in need of heating aid this winter. "We hope that the business community, as well as churches and other private organizations, will intensify their efforts in cooperation with government, to help needy citizens in their own communities," said Board member James A. Payne.

Due to a statewide influx of fuel assistance applications in the first six weeks of a program that could have continued until March 31, the state Department of Social Services stopped taking applications at the close of business Friday, Dec. 10. By that time, it was estimated that at least $28.8 million of the state's federal allocation of $36.5 million had been obligated to pay for low-income households' heating bills. In order to save money for emergency aid, state officials decided to close the regular fuel assistance program before the federal funds were completely used up.

An emergency program began Monday, December 13. Households which face a utility cut-off or which have completely run out of fuel can apply for a one-time payment of up to $150 to help them out of that crisis.

Last-minute Christmas ideas

By ANNA C. ATKINS
Marketing Specialist
Richmond

Last Minute Christmas Ideas . Regardless of anyone's organizational capability, the Christmas season always presents some last minute challenges. Gifts can easily be handled with an hour or two in the kitchen. But, if that hour isn't available in your schedule, a Virginia ham or Virginia wine and cheese would take even less time.

Decorating the house may have been rescheduled until you finally realize that your first free day is December 2. A bushel of apples, an armful of greens, ribbon and candles will turn any home into a Williamsburg replica. Polish the apples with elbow grease because they already have a natural wax already on them Pil them into silver or crystal bowls or baskets. Arrange candles in front of mirrors nto an impromptou double thier effect. Not enough candle holders. Slice off the bottom of some apples so that they set level. Core apples and place candles in centers. Use the greenery and ribbons to accent all the natural red of the apples.

Last minute entertaining may be the most difficult of you to keep it simple, it too, is possible. Oysters, crab, sliced ham or good cheeses would be excellent for hors d'oeuvres. If you've been cornered into an impromptou feeding of the masses, a

(Continued page 17)

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